

CALL TO DUTY

VOL. 1, ISSUE 4

THIS ISSUE'S THEME:

"... as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 24:15

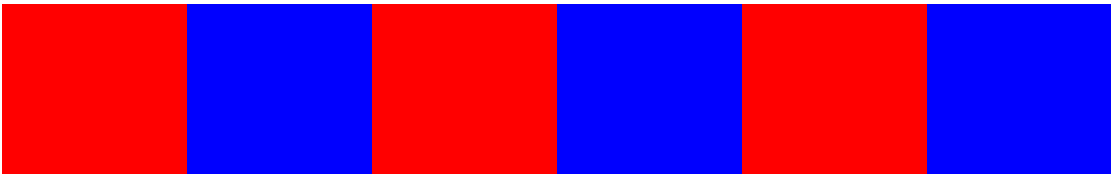


Top Line: "Where Everyone is Loved"
Bottom Line: "Churches of Christ"

~ UKRAINIAN RELIEF AID ~
~ POLISH CHURCH LEADERS MEETING ~
Mission Trip: April/May 2022

When the Russian military violently attacked and invaded Ukraine on February 24, the U.S. soldier-side of me instantly had to do something in response. Being a soldier of Christ, I prayed that God would open an effectual door of ministry to me—and He did. *"Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I. Send me! And He said 'Go ...'"* (Isaiah 6:8-9). No sooner had I returned from that brief trip (*"Encourage & Strengthen"* tour) on March 28 than John Kachelman (*Ukraine Missions* in Montgomery, AL, <https://www.kachelman.com/ukraine/blog/>) invited me to be part of the U.S. team supporting a humanitarian aid project in LVIV, UKRAINE.

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MILITARY OUTREACH & ENCOURAGEMENT

UKRAINE MISSION

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BEAR VALLEY ALUMNI

I left Huntsville and flew to Minneapolis-Saint Paul, MN, where I met with **Terry Harmon**, preacher for the church in Rapid City, SD. Terry and I studied at the Bear Valley Bible Institute in Denver in the early 1990s. When he heard that I was planning a trip to Ukraine via Warsaw, Poland, Terry asked if he could travel with me. Terry is well-acquainted with the church and people in Ukraine: (1) he lived there for eight years working with the church; (2) he is married to a Ukrainian woman, Marina; (3) he speaks Ukrainian and Russian (from living in Moscow for three years); and (4) he is the Stateside Coordinator for the Bear Valley Bible Institute Ukraine (BVBIU). So, it was only natural that Terry wanted to accompany us. We had plenty of time to catch up on our families and ministry works and brainstorm ideas for church leadership and the Bible Institute in Ukraine and Poland during our overseas travels, mainly in Warsaw. We arrived there on April 20 and met fellow U.S. and Ukrainian humanitarian team members. After spending the night, we drove to the Poland/Ukraine border to process our passports for entry. When we arrived later that afternoon at our hotel in Lviv, Terry was met by the director of the Bear Valley Institute, and off they went for the next ten days. While in Ukraine, he taught the book of Luke to the school students and performed a wedding of a young couple.

HUMANITARIAN & SPIRITUAL AID IN LVIV

My team's primary duties at the warehouses included performing inventories, sorting, and repacking pallets of meds and other pharmaceuticals (**\$8.5 million wholesale**) donated by an American drug company valued at **\$40-50 million retail** destined for 115+ hospitals around Ukraine. We spent ten days in-country, which featured daily and nightly air raid warnings. Warehouses and other infrastructure were targets as the Russians tried to destroy/disrupt arms/military shipments. Consequently, it was a critical and potentially dangerous mission, and security was paramount, but God protected us from harm (attacks did occur before and after we left). There is a mandatory curfew from 2200 hours to 0600 hours. Because of the genuine threat of missile attacks at night, windows are shaded with minimal lighting. At 2200 hours (10:00 pm), it was lights out in the hotel rooms. Roadside barriers and military checkpoints were abundant, especially when entering major cities such as Lviv. When we first arrived, law enforcement and military officials carefully screened us and our passports (probably wondering why foreigners, especially Americans, wanted to be there). Lviv is a beautiful old city founded in 1256. *"Traces of its Polish and Austro-Hungarian heritage are evident in its architecture, which blends Central and Eastern European styles with those of Italy and Germany"* (<http://city-adm.lviv.ua/>). One afternoon during our

downtime, we were able to visit the city center and had lunch at a unique restaurant: the *Kryjivka*, or *Underground Shelter*. Ukraine's resistance to Russian troops during World War Two is the inspiration for this popular themed eatery that was once a partisan bunker that is literally—*underground*. Its decor is adorned with photos dating back to the 1940s and tons of replica weapons and other era memorabilia.

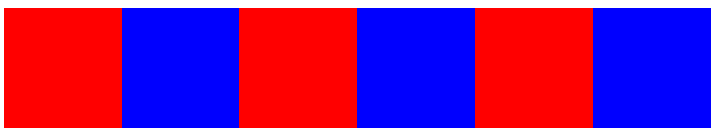
While in Ukraine, we were blessed to visit and encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ (actually, we were the ones who were edified by their strong faith!) in Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk. At both congregations, we studied and sang in our respective languages. We were also able to help the church in Lviv as they ministered to fellow refugee brethren. We purchased food, personal care products, a refrigerator, and two small kitchen appliances for their refugee "center" (a small, attached building in a courtyard, more like a shed that housed 7-11 people at varying times. They barely had room to sleep and move around, and their only sink was in the bathroom, where they washed dishes, cookware, etc.). These brothers were so grateful to see us and had tears in their eyes that we came from the U.S. to help them. Our hearts were moved as we listened carefully to their stories of being uprooted from their homes and families due to constant missile bombardments (men between 18 and 60 could not leave Ukraine). We ended in prayer for them, their families, the church, and the country.

SPIRITUAL AID IN WARSAW

Upon completing our humanitarian aid mission in Ukraine, Terry and I spent two days meeting with the Ukrainian and Polish brethren in Warsaw. While we were in Ukraine, my son-in-law and daughter **Lukasz and Nicole** helped their "guests" transition into a new apartment-style house (rental) that was perfect for their needs (God's providential care). Before they could move in, much had to be done to make it livable for 50+ people. They ordered multiple bunk beds, linens, and appliances, including several refrigerators and washers/dryers, tables, chairs, and desks for the children to do their school work. The men immediately went to work assembling the furniture, etc. Terry and I were given a tour of this excellent facility and noticed the backyard needed mowing, so we bought them a mower and trimmer. The Ukrainians immediately set to work and transformed the backyard into an excellent area for the kids to play and garden. They are buying an open-air tent to conduct evening devotionals and worship as the house doesn't have a large enough room for all to assemble.

Our primary purpose in this Eastern European capital was to meet with the church leaders to encourage and explore ways to help them in the coming months and year(s). Only God knows how long the war in Ukraine will last, but hopefully, peace will prevail soon. The war-torn areas of Ukraine will take years to rebuild, including adequate housing and infrastructure.

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UKRAINE MISSION

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Meanwhile, it is vitally important that the Lord’s church in Poland remains strong with good leadership. Łukasz and Nicole have been the sole workers helping the Ukrainians settle initially and during their current settlement. With their transition to Huntsville, Alabama, on July 1, there will be a huge void, but we trust God will raise good leaders. To this end, Terry and I invited another fellow Bear Valley graduate, **Robert Nowik** (from the Baltic seacoast city of Gydnia, where he preaches), to meet with us in Warsaw to help. (It was a great mini Bear Valley reunion as the last time the three of us were together was in Denver while in school back in the early 90s.) We met with the Ukrainian brothers (Terry was able to translate into English for our benefit); they seemed receptive and appreciative of our concerns for the church. Robert is willing to stay connected to the remaining Warsaw church members by phone, Skype, and in-person visits to encourage and help problem-solve as needed. (NOTE: Łukasz told us today, May 20, 2022, that the Ukraine brothers are slowly assuming responsibilities for Sunday worship services and who will do what and when. So, this is good news! They are also looking to purchase a suitably used passenger van to transport the older/disabled members to worship as it’s hard to take public transportation. The church meets in a rented facility in the city center—Centrum—a long distance).

Once again, thank you for partnering with me in this much-needed mission! If you want to help financially support the ongoing work in Warsaw, please send your contribution to the **Tuscumbia Church of Christ, 102 E. 4th St. Tuscumbia, AL 35674; phone (256) 381-0651**. If you want additional information, don’t hesitate to contact me via email or phone.

Please continue to pray for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters and the churches caring for them in Ukraine, Poland, and other European Union countries. May God be praised for His mercy and grace!

~ Ed Linebaugh, U.S. Army Retired

PS: This, this was my 2nd trip to Eastern Europe (Poland, then Ukraine and Poland) in within a three-week period.



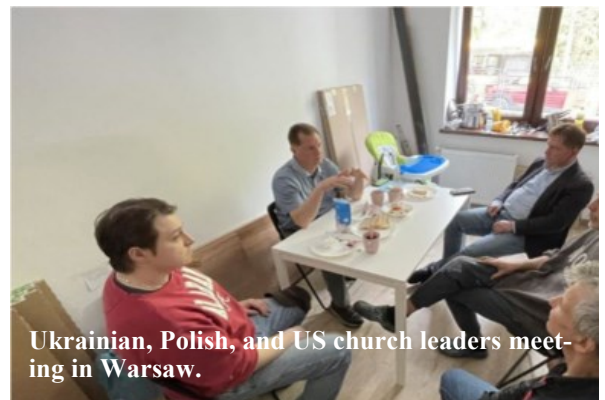
Ed Linebaugh Robert Nowik Terry Harmon



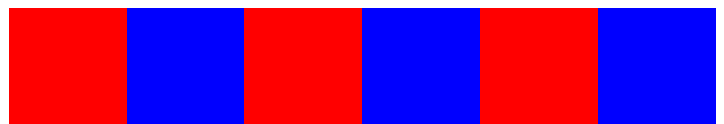
Lviv Church of Christ



Volunteer soldier in Lviv



Ukrainian, Polish, and US church leaders meeting in Warsaw.



AS YOU WERE...

"... three words spoken quickly by non-commissioned and commissioned officers who choose to drop rank and get to business, is meant to put troops 'at ease.'"



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CALL OF DUTY

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground...
Ephesians 6:13

Pray
Through
Stressful
Difficulties
(James 1:2-8)



BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE WE WILL SERVE THE LORD
Joshua 24:15

DailyBibleMeme.com

SERVING THE LORD WITH THE TENNESSEE CHILDREN'S HOME

I joined the United States Air Force after two years of college. I was not putting my best into school and knew I needed to mature. I thought that the military would provide me with the discipline needed to begin maturing as a responsible adult. In addition, I had always wanted to serve my country in some manner. I have always believed in serving others before self. My parents taught me from a young age the importance of helping others. My wife Melissa was a Christian prior to us meeting and influence me to become a Christian. Melissa and I tried to always put God first and provide a Christian example in hopes that our kids would be imitators of God and walk in love as Christ also loved us. To walk as, imitate, follow, or mirror God is to be a child of God. When we walk in love and are imitators of Christ, we will put away corrupt actions, be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving as Christ forgave us. "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you (Ephesians 4:32).

It was an honor to serve my country but that pales in comparison to the privilege of serving the Lord. Melissa and I served the Lord faithfully during our service to the Air Force. After my retirement our service turned toward fulltime mission work with the Tennessee Children's Home. Our mission at the Tennessee Children's Home is committed to improving the lives of those we influence through quality services in a Christian atmosphere. We strive to be faithful servants of God and be imitators of God so that each child we come in contact with can see the love of Christ. Tennessee Children's Home is a residential treatment facility that provides care for victims of abuse, dependent neglected, orphaned, and/or exploited youth, making every effort to provide services to meet their intellectual, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs. Our program is designed to help the youth with their thoughts in hopes of them changing their behavior to align with a moral and socially accepted way of thinking. All our house parents provide a good Christian example for the residents through Christ like behaviors, bible studies and church attendance weekly. Our goal is to show the children the importance of serving the Lord in every aspect of life.

Melissa and I raised our four children to love and serve the Lord with all they do in life. We are proud that all our children work for the Children's Home in one capacity or another. Joshua provided an example when he told the Israelites they could make a choice to follow false gods or the one true God, but he and his family would serve the Lord (Joshua 24:15). Melissa and I hope that our example is just as impactful as Joshua's.

~ Richard

Testimonials of the Tennessee Children's Home

Thank you for helping me address my problems with God and self-pride. I once dealt drugs and got high on drugs, but now I deal the Message and get high spiritually. I once thought God had turned His back on me, but now I know how much He loves me. You taught me a lot about life and how to be my own man.

Joe (alumn)

The employees at Tennessee Children's Home are a blessing. It takes special people to be so committed to these children. I recommend this program to all parents that have troubled children.

Angela (mother)

I am writing to thank each and every one of you for the wonderful support and care you have given me here. A lot in me has changed since I first arrived here and I owe a lot to the great staff. May God bless you!

Troy (alumn)

Richard Johnston enlisted in the Air Force 1988 after two years of college and retired in 2009. He was an air traffic controller and a terminal instrument specialist. He was stationed at six different bases and five war zone deployments during his career. Richard is currently the Executive Director of Tennessee Children's Home in Knoxville where he and his wife of 32 years Melissa reside. They have four adult children and four grandchildren; all of their children work for the Tennessee Children's Home in one capacity or another. Richard served as a Deacon at Greenmount Rd Church of Christ in Bellevue IL prior to moving to Tennessee. He and Melissa are members at the Karns Church of Christ in Knoxville, TN.

SERVE THE LORD... BY SERVING YOUR FAMILY

“Throw away your gods,” said Joshua (Joshua 24:14). As the leader of Israel looked around at those gathered nearby, he realized the vast majority of the people were consumed with distractions. They majored in minor things. Despite God’s continual deliverance and providential care, they failed to recognize his work in their lives. Thus, Joshua pleaded with them to choose whom they would serve. Today, we are presented with the same option.

We are surrounded by people who think everything is important. We are surrounded by Christians who think everything is God’s work. Their busyness and attitudes have rubbed off. Unfortunately, some church leaders have adopted the same mentality. From the pulpit, we hear messages that mandate us to show up to every Bible class, to work hard and provide for our families, to attend workdays at the church building, to care for the widows and orphans, to visit and write cards to those in the nursing homes, to visit the jails and prisons, to evangelize the world, to go on mission trips, to have Bible studies with our friends and family, to be hospitable, etc.

In short, we are told that we have to do a lot of things—and to balance them all expertly. However, there are many good acts and activities that Christians should prioritize. Children of God must realize *all ministry is important, yet not all ministry is equal*. The truthfulness of this statement is evidenced in Acts 6, when the apostles gathered and stated that their priority consisted of dedication to the word of God over waiting on tables. In other words, feeding the poor widows in Jerusalem was a task that must be accomplished; yet, it was not the top priority of the apostles. Thus, they delegated.

With this in mind, Christians must ask themselves, what is the most important thing I can be doing with the time and resources I have? After reflection and meditation, I have arrived at a simple truth—*serving my family well is an essential work of the kingdom of God*. On judgment day, if I attended every workday at the church building and every leadership workshop in the brotherhood but lost my family—what did I achieve? *Busyness does not equate to serving the Lord well*.



Although the children of God in Joshua’s day primarily struggled with idolatry, a key parallel exists for God’s people today. If we are to declare our household’s faithfulness and service to God, we must have influence within our household. Otherwise, our commitment may be nothing more than vain words. Thus, a critical question must be asked—*how is your relationship with your family?* In Ephesians 5, Paul states that Christ’s love for the church exemplifies the same love families should possess towards one another. We are called to a high standard!

As members of the Lord’s army, tasks and needs abound. There is always work to do. Despite our busyness, we must prioritize the needs of our family. We must not become so busy waiting on tables that we overlook the other physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs of those we are responsible for leading within our homes. Specifically, in 1 Timothy 5:8, Paul writes, “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (NASB).

In conclusion, a dire warning is found in Joshua 24. If God’s people fail to prioritize appropriately, captivity and turmoil are around the corner. To declare, “as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord,” we must have tremendous influence over our families. Joshua’s declaration was one of intent, purpose, and resolution. Take a tactical pause and evaluate on your relationship with your family. Today, serve the Lord by prioritizing your family.

~ Mason



Mason Norman serves in the U.S. Air Force. He has experience in local work, mission work, and church planting. Norman holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical studies and a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, and is currently a doctoral candidate in a Doctor of Ministry of Pastoral Counseling program. Norman and his wife, Haley, and son, Silas, live in New Mexico.

JOSHUA'S LAST INSTRUCTION

Many Army installations have a division or corps level unit run by a two- or three-star Commanding General. Army corps usually have two to three divisions. Under each division there will be two to six brigades, each with three to five battalions. Battalions have anywhere from three to four companies. All of these units typically fall under U.S. Forces Command (FORSCOM), organized under a four-star general. FORSCOM has over 800,000 soldiers and civilians under its control. Bear with me and I will get to the point soon. (This will be an oversimplification but true in a general sense.)

I describe the Army this way to compare it in some small degree to Joshua and who he's talking to in the book of Joshua, chapters 23-24; specifically, Joshua 24:15 and the famous words, "But as for me and my household we will serve the LORD." Keep those different levels of leadership in mind and, refer to them as needed as we continue to look at Joshua's main thrust in these chapters and in that famed phrase. (Numerically, U.S. Army units may not directly correlate to the size of Israel but their example suffices for simplistic comparison and to show sphere of influence.)

In Joshua 23, the chapter begins in verse one, "After a long time had passed and the LORD had given Israel rest from all their enemies around them, Joshua, by then a very old man summoned all Israel, its elders and leaders, its judges and officials." In these last two chapters, Joshua is giving his last speech to the troops—as we say in the Army. He doesn't summon all the people but only the "elders, leaders, judges and officials." He is thus the leader of Israel whose role is similar to the FORSCOM commander, who has summoned his division, brigade, battalion and company commanders to speak to them and give them their final instructions before he dies.

In an Army unit, most commanders are only there from two or three years at most, and therefore, do not have much time to make a huge difference or have a long-term impact on the leaders below them. Joshua has most likely had 20 to 30 years in charge of these leaders. His influence on them has been tremendous! He knows his time on earth is short and wants to reiterate what God's plans for them.

As I read Joshua's words, I hear him trying enlarge his sphere of influence as far as he can, for as long as he can. I also hear his concern for the future. No one knows those leaders and those people like Joshua does. He sees all those years of peace and prosperity has made them somewhat complacent. Though he has great influence over them, Joshua likely sees cracks in their wall of their faith too.

In many ways, this is why we have the Bible today! God wants today's family and church leaders to recall and heed these great words and examples as encouragement! Joshua wanted them to NEVER forget what God has done, is doing and will do!

Blessings to you all! ~ Albert Flores



Alberto Flores is graduate of the Sunset International Bible Institute, Class of 2002. After serving as the Outreach Minister in Childress, TX, he began working on his Bachelor's in Ministry at Lubbock Christian University. While in college he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2007 as a Religious Affairs Specialist. He has served in the Army for the past 15 yrs. He has two combat tours in Iraq (2008-09) and Afghanistan (2019-2020). Alberto is currently stationed at Fort Hood, TX and attends Southside the Church of Christ in Killeen.

JESUS: MY “CREDESCENCE”

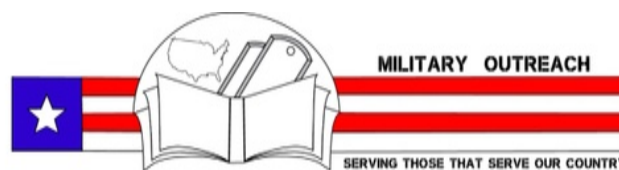
From the time of its first use in English, the word “credence” has had as its prime meaning, “confidence, belief, trust—from the Latin *credo*, believe.” But there has also been a secondary meaning which arose from a cautionary measure back in the Middle Ages. In those days, when the preservation of meat was unknown and the food might readily become tainted and poisonous, or deliberately poisoned, it was the custom for the servants of a royal or noble house to carry the prepared dishes from the kitchen and place them on a small side-table in the dining hall. There, under the observation of the master and his guests, one of the servants or an official of the household tasted each dish before it was served at the table. That tasting or assaying of the food and, by transference, the table at which it was performed, were known as “credence.” (A side table or buffet is called *credence* in France, *credenza* in Italy, to this day.) In later days, when the needs for such precautions had passed, the name of the table was retained. (Source: *Thereby Hangs A Tale, Stories of Curious Word Origins*, Charles E. Funk)

THOUGHT QUESTION: How often does one consider Jesus as our “Credence”? Hebrews 2:9-12, *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: ‘I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.’”*

Thank you, Father, for allowing Your Only Son to pass under Your watchful eye as “Credence” so that we can have the choice of a toxic-free life both now and in eternity.

~ Glenn

Glenn I. Hitchcock served in the United States Air Force from 1972-1980. He is married to the former Mercedes Dowson of Byron, GA. They have one daughter, Lauren age 24. The Hitchcocks have been married 49 years. Glenn serves as one of the elders for the Peninsula Church of Christ in Hampton, VA and has been preaching and teaching for over 40 years.



This program of work is designed to send a teacher or teaching team to a congregation anywhere they are invited, worldwide. The length of time our teacher spends with your congregation can be from a few days to a few months.

Our teaching staff is ready to help you grow in faith, service, and outreach. No matter where you are located, stateside or overseas, we are prepared to serve congregations anywhere in the world.

Military Outreach Is A Work Of The Bear Valley Church Of Christ In Denver Colorado

<https://1militaryoutreach1.com/>

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AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE

Joshua sets a great reminder before the inheritors of the newly conquered land of Israel. In Joshua 24:15, Joshua, the leader of Israel states:

But if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served, which were beyond the *Euphrates* River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”



Joshua is reminding his countrymen of the fundamental duty for all godly men. When all the physical battles are fought and won, what is the state of our home and its affairs? This is an essential question for every Christian leader, especially for those with a military background.

The book of Joshua is coming to a close as we reach this climactic passage about personal responsibility, accountability, and leadership. Joshua’s work, though seemingly finished, was just beginning. No doubt Joshua was a great military leader (Exodus 17:13). He even showed great skill in leading a great multitude through a new and hostile land, but something was still lacking. Joshua needed to set his home in order. He needed to pledge to defend the most precious possession a man has, his family.

Joshua realizes there is only so much he can do for others. The people he has led for the last few years have a choice to make all on their own. Joshua could lead them physically through dangerous

lands with the help of God, but their homes were their responsibility.

For the Christian, the God seeker, and the honest heart, Joshua’s plea demonstrates two primary roles of the godly leader. We not only must get our home in order, by Joshua’s example, but we must also plead with others to look introspectively at the lives they are living. We must ask the ever-relevant question, who will you serve?

The answer must come in light of all that those assembled in Joshua’s hearing had witnessed. The great power, the mighty hand of God, the care of a loving father – all this must be considered for us as well. Will we serve the God who loves us, provides for us, and helps to transform us into the leaders this world needs?

No matter the battle you are fighting, physical or spiritual, God desires that you honor him with your life. We must be the leaders who choose God while surrounded by the enemy. As important, we must be the leaders who plead with others to choose as well. ~Freddie Klein



Fredrick is an Airforce veteran, formerly serving as an avionic technician on the B1 airframe at Ellsworth AFB before being honorably discharged in 2010. He has gone on to receive his Bachelor of Theology from the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver, a Bachelor of Psychology from the University of Colorado at Denver, and his Master of Divinity from Freed-Hardeman University. Fredrick is married to Inge and has two children, Waylon and Wesely. He currently serves as the pulpit minister for the Southside church of Christ in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He also serves as the Dean of Admissions for the Southeast Institute for Biblical Studies in Knoxville, Tennessee, and as Chaplain for the local Trail Life troop.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15). I first saw this scripture about 50 years ago on a plaque on my great-grandmother's house wall. Her name was Ma-Walker. She was a faithful member of the Lord's church for many years. At this time, only God knew the impact this scripture would have on my life for years to come. I believe that many parents fail to understand the lasting influence an environment may have on their lives and their children's lives. It is vital to understand that what we spend our time doing affects our souls and those we influence.

There are exactly 168 hours in one week. So, what daily activities do we practice during these hours? With everything that has been going on in our world today, it is imperative we focus on how we can better spend our time pleasing God.

Have you ever heard of the 10,000-hour rule?

The theory of the 10,000-hour rule was made popular in Malcolm Gladwell's book, *The Outliers*. This theory suggests that it takes this many hours to become successful or an expert in a field. Ten thousand hours is equivalent to thirteen 13- and one-half months, or 1.14 years. Speaking of a lot of hours, let's peek at how the children of Israel spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness.

The Israelites spent forty years wandering around in the wilderness with Moses. Why? Because just like you and I today, the Israelites had problems being distracted by material things that hindered their ability to serve the Lord faithfully. During this time, Joshua had witnessed several shameful behaviors by the Israelites. So, Joshua reminded them and challenged them about their ungodly past when they created false gods and idols to be worshipped.

“Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the river and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell....” (Joshua 24:14-15a)

Before we pass judgment on the Israelites, we need to examine the potential modern-day idols we may have in our lives that may be destroying our ability to serve God with a pure heart.

Modern Day Idols

By that definition, even good things can become idols. Anything, or anyone, can become an idol if we place them above our value for God. People will say, “I love God,” but their actions clearly indicate who their allegiant is with (Matthew 15:8-9; James 2:26),

Identity (Galatians 2:20)

When we abandon who we are in Jesus and place our identity in our social media following, our position at work, or other achievements, we make ourselves an idol. When this happens, our identity causes us to be self-serving, worshiping ourselves and wanting others to sing us praises.

Money/Material Things (1 Timothy 6:10)

It is easy today to bow down to the idols of money and material possessions. We do not have to be rich for money to be an idol. However, it's the pursuit of money and the thrill we get as we lust after what we can buy. Money only becomes an idol when we place our love of money above the love of a faithful God.

“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

(Deuteronomy 6:6-9)

Joshua made his plead with God's people to turn away from their idols, and with finality, he made this bold and powerful proclamation. *“But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD”* (Joshua 24:15b).

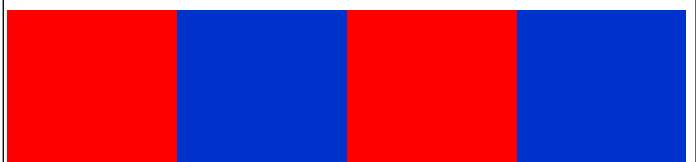
I have resolved in my heart for nearly fifty years, to strive to have my home be a place where “we will serve the LORD” and rid out anything or anyone that has the potential to become an idol in my house.

Phones/Technology (1 John 2:15)

The idol of technology has become an addiction for many. People simply cannot live without their phones or having a presence online. Just because this is the way of our world today, doesn't make it okay to have technology as an idol. When was the last time you looked at how many hours a day you spend on your phone? Is it more than the time you spend living for God? The bottom line is that our phones, social media, or any form of technology are not the problem. The problem is the priority and time we spend with these potential idols that will cause our spiritual decline.

The words written in the book of Deuteronomy many years ago, should ring out in our hearts and homes today.

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COUNSELOR'S CORNER (CONT. FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

AS FOR
Me and My
 HOUSE
 WE WILL SERVE
the
LORD
 - JOSHUA 24:15 -

(continued from previous page)

“These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)

Joshua made his plea with God’s people to turn away from their idols, and with finality, he made this bold and powerful proclamation. *“But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15b).*

I have resolved in my heart for nearly fifty years, to strive to have my home be a place where “we will serve the LORD” and rid out anything or anyone that has the potential to become an idol in my house.

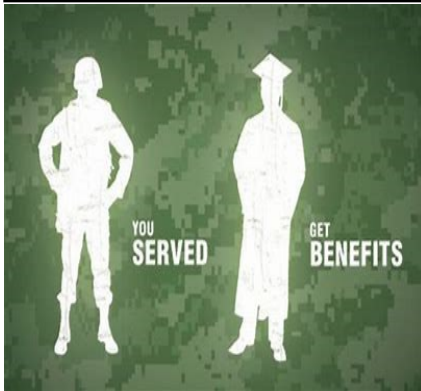
Are there any idols in your life and or in your home?

~ Harry



Harry C. Washington III is retired from the U.S. Air Force. Before retiring from full-time ministry, he ministered at the Outreach Church of Christ for 20 years. He was also the director of Christian Grace Counseling Center and Christian Grace Counseling Academy. Harry is a Licensed Clinical Christian Counselor with a Ph.D. in Clinical Christian counseling, and is now a Christian Motivational Speaker and a Christian YouTuber. His channels are God's Virtual School and God's Greater Love. Harry and his wife Audrey currently reside in Tennessee and attend the Karns Church of Christ. You can reach Harry at drharry4@gmail.com.

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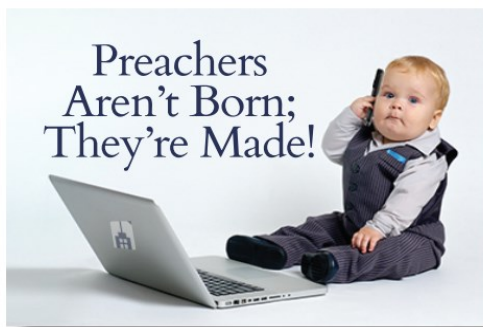
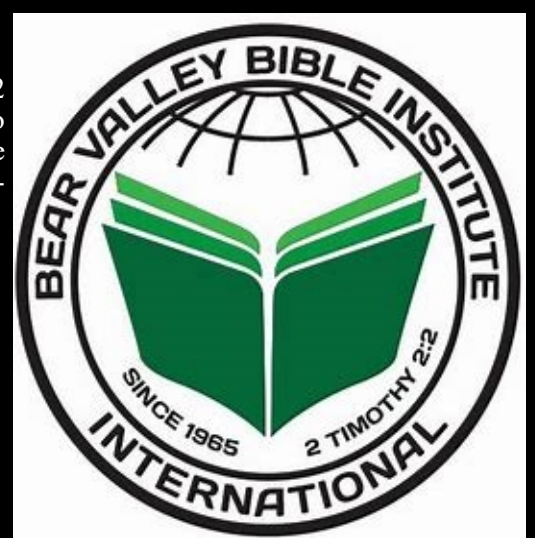
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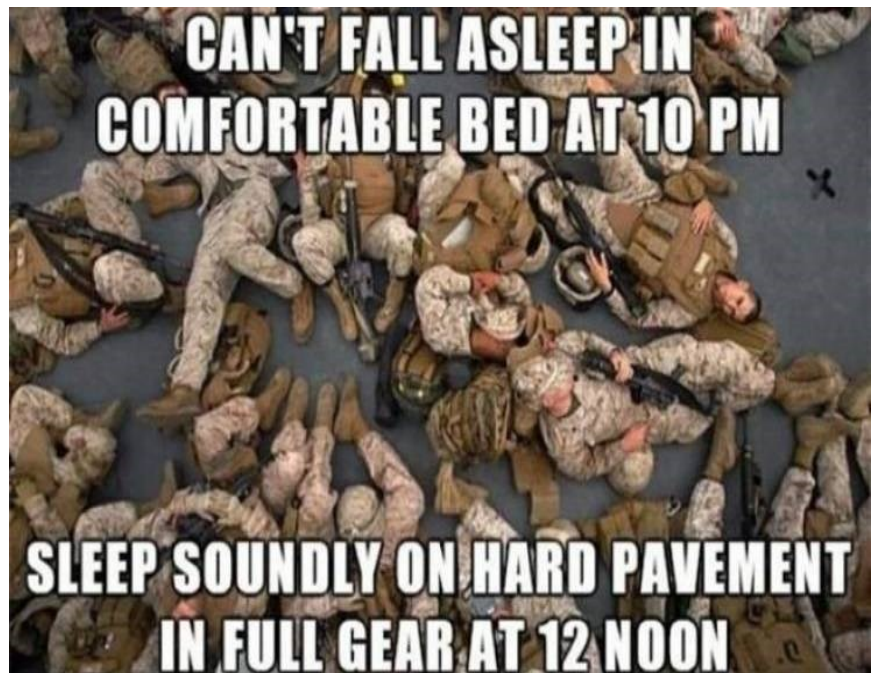
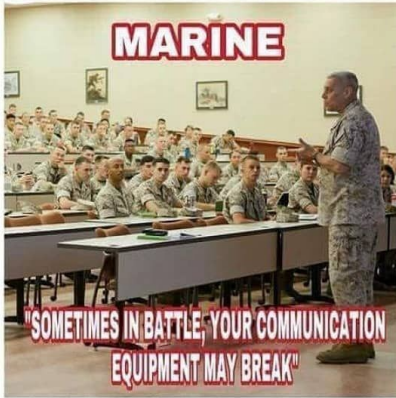
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“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”

Romans 10:14

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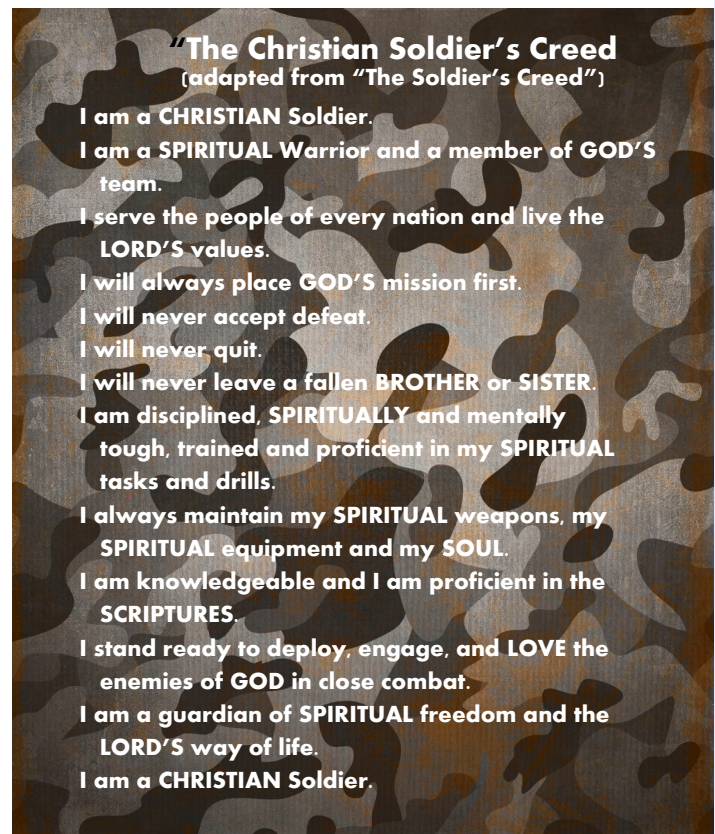
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HEAR the word of God: Romans 10:9-14; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Revelation 2:7; 22:18-19

BELIEVE in Jesus as Savior of world: John 3:16; 14:6; 14:23

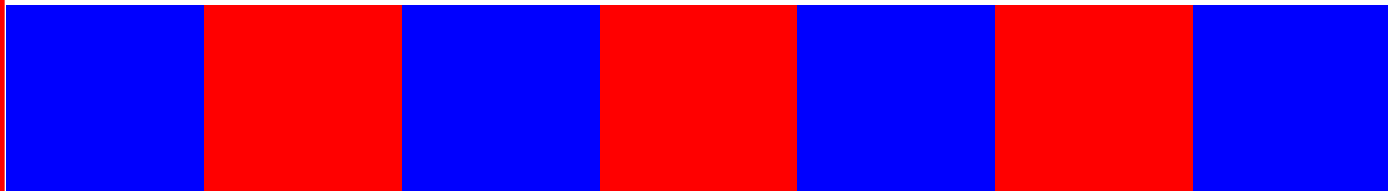
REPENT of your sins: Luke 13:3,5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 8:22; 17:30; Revelation 2:5, 16, 21,22; 3:3, 19

CONFESS Jesus before others: Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:8-11

BE IMMERSED into Christ for forgiveness of your sins: Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-47; 22:16; Romans 6:3-11; 1 Peter 3:18-22

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